

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Hyoung-Sub KIM

Serial No.: 10/771,749 Examiner: Cao, Phat X.

Filed: February 3, 2004 Group Art Unit: 2814

Confirmation No.: 3653

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE HAVING SELF-ALIGNED CONTACT  
HOLE AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**APPLICANT'S COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR  
ALLOWANCE**

Claims 1, 4-9, 12 and 13 have been allowed in this case. The Statement of Reasons for Allowance (and possibly other statements) indicates that the prior art fails to teach features recited in the claims. To the extent that the stated reasons agree with the language of the claims, and further recognizing that there may be other, unstated reasons why the claims are allowable, the applicants agree with the stated reasons.

Furthermore, patent claims are read as a whole, rather than phrase by phrase or element by element. Therefore, the scope of the claims is not necessarily limited only to the claim features mentioned in the statements, but rather, to the language of the claims themselves, in their entirety. Each of the claims includes particular features and particular claim language, and therefore each has a scope different from the others.

**Customer No. 20575**

Respectfully submitted,  
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